

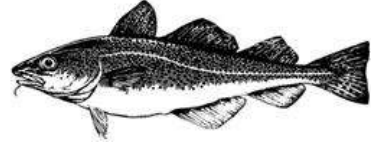
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Nathaniel Nichols, Area Management Biologist
Natura Richardson, Asst. Area Management Biologist

Kodiak Area Office
351 Research Court
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840
Fax: (907) 486-1824

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2018 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Pot Gear

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod pot gear sector A season effective at noon February 1, 2018. Therefore, the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at noon March 7, 2018 unless delayed by weather. If the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area 155 issued at 4:00 a.m. on March 7, 2018 contains gale warnings for that day or the following day, the season opening will be delayed 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days, after which the season will open regardless of the weather forecast. The 2018 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 5.35 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 85% of the GHL or 4.54 million pounds.

Pot vessels may not operate more than 60 groundfish pots and buoy tags are required for all pot gear. During the seven days prior to the state-waters season opening, open and unbaited pot gear may be stored on the fishing grounds at any depth; pot gear may not be baited until the pot season opens.

Vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish pot gear interim-use permit card from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and an exclusive area state-waters vessel registration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating in the state-waters season. Vessel registration and buoy tags are available at ADF&G in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, the False Pass City Office, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and Peter Pan Seafoods in King Cove and Sand Point.

Vessel operators using pot gear are required to report the following information to ADF&G daily:

- 1) Fishing location;
- 2) Number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour period; and
- 3) Number of pounds of Pacific cod retained in the previous 24-hour period.

Reports will be taken between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. daily by satellite dispatch (7894). Vessel operators may also report by phone (907-486-1840) or email (natura.richardson@alaska.gov). Vessel operators interested in making alternative reporting arrangements are encouraged to contact ADF&G prior to the season opening.

Tender vessel operators must obtain a tender vessel registration for the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries and must use the tLandings electronic reporting application to report all groundfish delivered to a tender vessel (5 AAC 28.033(a) and 5 AAC 39.130(b)).

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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